

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 and 6-14 are presently active in this case. Claims 1 and 8 are amended, and Claim 5 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-4 and 6-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Le Quere (U.S. Patent No. 5,911,443). Claim 1 was further rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Moretti (U.S. Patent No. 4,919,457). The Office Action also objected to Claims 5 and 8-14, but these claims were considered allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

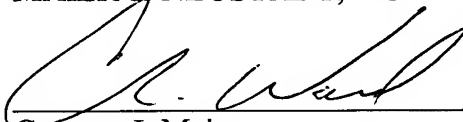
In light of this indication, Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter indicated as allowable from original Claim 5. Moreover, amended Claim 8 is rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of base Claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1 and 8 are allowable.

Further, dependent Claims 2-4, 6-7, and 9-14 are considered allowable for the reasons advanced for Claims 1 and 8 from which they ultimately depend. These claims are further considered allowable as they recite other features that are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the applied reference when those features are considered within the context of independent Claims 1 and 8.

Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance, and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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